

## Message Text

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16

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 AID-20 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01

SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 SAM-01 IO-14 OMB-01 EB-11 IGA-02

COME-00 TRSE-00 DRC-01 DPW-01 /168 W

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R 040315Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2228

INFO THE WHITE HOUSE

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 2763

NSC FOR LEHMAN, DEPT FOR STEARNS (EA), AID FOR NOOTER  
AND ROBINSON

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, VS

SUBJECT: VISIT OF GVN REPRESENTATIVES TO DISCUSS AID PROGRAMS

1. DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER TRAN VAN DON AND SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE,  
AMBADDADOR BUI DIEM, CALLED ON AMBASSADOR PRIOR TO THEIR DEPARTURE  
MARCH 6 FOR TOKYO AND FROM THERE TO WASHINGTON MARCH 9. THEY  
WILL RETURN VIA PARIS WHERE THEY ALSO HOPE TO DISCUSS ECONOMIC  
ASSISTANCE.

2. THEY ASKED ABOUT STATUS OF \$60 MILLION DLF LOAN. AMBASSADOR  
SAID PAPERS ARE BEING PREPARED AND THEY COULD REVIEW PROGRESS WITH  
NOOTER AND ROBINSON IN WASHINGTON. HOWEVER, HE DID NOT EXPECT ANY  
PROBLEMS. THEY WERE ALSO INTERESTED IN PROSPECTS OF GETTING  
ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS TO REACH LEVEL OF AID AUTHORIZED BY  
HOUSE.

3. AMBASSADOR URGED THEM TO GET IN TOUCH WITH LEHMAN OF NSC  
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STAFF, STEARNS IN STATE, ROBINSON AND NOOTER IN AID. HE POINTED

OUT THAT CONGRESSMAN FRELINGHUYSEN AT END OF HIS RECENT VISIT HERE HAD BEEN CONVINCED OF THE IMPORTANCE OF ADEQUATE AID AND COULD BE USEFUL POINT OF CONTACT. AMBASSADOR NOTED PROPAGANDA ATTACKS FROM THE LEFT ATTEMPTING TO UNDERMINE CONFIDENCE IN GVN AND SUPPORT FOR ASSISTANCE AND SAID IT WOULD BE IMPORTANT FOR THESE REPRESENTATIVES TO COUNTER LIES ABOUT PRISONERS ETC. AND TO CONVEY FACTS OF POLITICAL STRENGTH, POPULAR SUPPORT, AND GENERAL EFFECTIVENESS OF GVN.

4. THE MAJOR POINT WHICH AMBASSADOR MADE AND REPEATED SEVERAL TIMES WAS THAT HE HAS PRESSED FOR FISCAL YEAR 1975 AID LEVEL OF \$850 MILLION WHICH IS ESSENTIAL TO MEET RISING WORLD PRICES AND TO ACHIEVE VIET-NAMS'S POTENTIAL FOR ECONOMIC TAKEOFF. HE POINTED OUT THAT COMMUNISTS TENDED TO ACCEPT THEIR PRESENT INABILITY TO DEFEAT ARVN BUT WERE WAITING FOR DECAY AND DISORDER FROM ECONOMIC CAUSES WHICH WOULD GIVE THEM FURTHER MILITARY OPPORTUNITIES. THIS HAD TO BE AVOIDED AND REQUIRED AID AT \$850 MILLION LEVEL. BUI DIEM AND TRAN VAN DON SAID THEY WOULD SUPPORT STRONGLY IN WASHINGTON.  
MARTIN

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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